

REMARKS

Claims 2-14 and 16-22 are now in the application. By this Amendment, claims 21 and 22 have been amended into independent form, claims 2-6, 9, 10-14 and 16-20 have been amended to change their dependency, and independent claim 13 has been amended to recite all of the features of original claim 21. Claim 1 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. No new matter has been added.

Applicants appreciate the indication in the Office Action that claims 21 and 22 recite allowable subject matter and base the amendments herein on this indication. Specifically, claims 21 and 22 have been amended into independent form including all of the features of original claim 1 from which these claims have been depending. Entry of the amendments is respectfully requested as they bring the application into condition of allowance based on the indication of allowability in the Office Action.

Claims 1-14 and 16-20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over WO 02/083695 to Ahlers et al., as evidenced by U.S. Patent No. 7,173,138, in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,731,472 to Leung et al.

Claim 1 has been canceled by this Response. Accordingly, the rejection as to this claim is moot. Further, independent claim 13 has been amended to recite the combination of all of the features of original claim 21.

Claims 2-12, 14, and 16-20 are in condition for allowance for at least their respective dependence on allowable claims 13 and 21, as well as for the separately patentable subject matter that each of claims 2-12, 14, and 16-20 recites.

In view of the above amendment, Applicants believe the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 22-0185, under Order No. 13111-00038-US1 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

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Respectfully submitted,

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